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It requires no great power of insight to guess that the Fisheries Commission will not commit the egregious folly of reducing Canada to the condition of an outlying province of the United States in order to induce the Americans to take full possession of the Canadian fisheries. That is in sum what the proposal of the Commercial Unionists means; and when the Hon. Mr. Longley states that Mr. Chamberlain has deliberately determined to arrange the Fishery Question according to British rather than Canadian interests he means that Mr. Chamberlain, uninfluenced by the clamour of an insignificant but noisy minority in Canada with a hobby, will agree only to some common-sense arrangement that will commend itself to the Mother Country as well as her colony. Happily, to paraphrase Mr. Longley's plaint, Canada is *not* at this moment represented at Washington by men ready to meet the demand of some half dozen organisers of farmers' picnics for unrestricted trade with the States; and therefore the present fine opportunity for securing this boon [at the expense of everything that ought to be held sacred by the nation],—the finest opportunity that has ever occurred, or is ever likely to occur in our history—will be *passed over*. It may be as Mr. Longley seems to anticipate, that a great struggle is impending in Canada—a struggle with the Commercial Union Club—but “every man who values the interests of his country” will not be exactly “face to face with the problem, whether we are to be a free, self-governed and prosperous community or simply a plaything for British diplomatists and manufacturers,” but rather with the problem whether this hobby is to continue to be treated seriously, and its propaganda met by argument, or laughed out of existence.

THE Commercial Union Club seems disposed to play the part of a Canadian Cobden Club. But if the Cobden Club had done, at starting, what the Commercial Unionists are now doing, it would have been so exceedingly short-lived that no one would ever dream of imitating it. Unlike the Commercial Union Club, it did not propose that England should go into partnership with a highly-protected country against the rest of the world and call that Free Trade; nor, we think, would it have proposed that England should surrender all control over its own tariff, allowing a foreign power to make it, for the sake of securing this commercial partnership. The arguments of the Commercial Unionists are sound as arguments for Free Trade with all the world; but to restrict this Free Trade to one country, as they are doing, is to deprive themselves of all title to respect as economists, and to lay themselves open to the suspicion of intending to use Commercial Union as a means of bringing about political union with the States. That Commercial Union with one country exclusively would ordinarily tend to political fusion with that country, no one that has given the subject a moment's thought can doubt; and in the case of Canada this tendency would be immensely accelerated by the preponderating mass of the States, by the present feebleness of Canadian national sentiment, by the habit we should acquire of looking to Washington for changes in the tariff, and of regarding England as a foreign State, outside, having no part in our commercial intercourse with our partner. But any such considerations as these the Commercial Unionists utterly ignore, wisely for their own purposes, having regard to the capacity of their usual audiences, confining themselves to the reiteration of general statements about the advantages of Free Trade, which, if applicable to trade relations with the States, a highly protected country, is surely much more applicable to trade relations with Great Britain and an open world.

THE London *Spectator*, remarking on the Interprovincial Conference resolution relating to Commercial Union, says: “The Premiers profess unabated loyalty to the Queen, and say that it will be increased by the proposed change; but they are not, we presume, blind to the fact that, the moment it is effected, the control of the tariff virtually passes to Washington. Congress cannot tax, say, tea, at 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, and leave the Dominion to admit it at, say, 10 per cent. The measure must, in the end, increase the disposition of Canadians towards fusion—though Free Trade does not necessarily bind people together, as witness North

and South, England and Ireland.” Very true; but what prevented the fusion of North and South, and now prevents the fusion of England and Ireland, were social and racial antipathies that have no existence in the case of the States and Canada. So that the parallel does not apply; or if it does, it enforces the likelihood of fusion where such antipathetical obstacles are absent.

THE Government of Newfoundland is preparing to enforce the Bait Act recently assented to by the Crown. Entirely forbidding the sale of bait to foreigners, it is aimed chiefly at the French fishermen, who, while claiming a right to buy bait and fish off-shore all around the Newfoundland coast, exclude all others from the fisheries along what is known as the French shore. Besides this, they receive heavy bounties from the French Government; and their advantages altogether have been so great that it has been found impossible to compete with them. Hence the determination of the Newfoundlanders to protect themselves, if the French would not fish fair. The future of the island depends so much on the well-being of the fishermen, that to protect them from unfair competition is a manifest duty of Government.

WHAT a tale is revealed by the consternation of Messrs. Parnell and T. P. O'Connor at being subpoenaed as witnesses in the O'Donnell libel suit against the *Times*! Mr. O'Donnell, charged by the *Times* with being connected with the Phoenix Park murders, naturally calls upon Thomas Power O'Connor to produce the minute-books and ledgers of the Home Rule Federation and National League, where it is apparently taken as a matter of course some record or hint of an order to murder Mr. Cavendish and Mr. Burke, or of payment made to the murderers, may be found. And Mr. Parnell, accused by the *Times* of complicity with the murderers, instead of answering this charge as a guiltless man must have done, had three months ago resolved to cross the sea in order to avoid being placed in a witness box in this case—or any case whatever. It is not surprising that Mr. Parnell has been ill and lost, ever since the revelation was made of the Parnell letter.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR M. P., one of the Irish cable correspondents in whom the *Globe* delights, whose cablegrams “do scant justice to the Irish cause and deal too favourably with Tory policy and practice,” in 1880 took the oaths as member for Galway. In 1881 he helped to organise and conduct the first Chicago Convention. He attended a preliminary meeting in the *Irish World* office with his colleague Mr. T. M. Healy, then member for Wexford, the notorious Father Sheehy, Patrick Ford, the apostle of murder, and John Finerty, the dynamiter. The “Irish Republic” was freely mentioned in the Convention, and Mr. O'Connor observed, amid applause, that “the Irish people had no army as yet.” Steps were taken to remedy this deficiency, and subscriptions were openly received to levy war upon the Crown, to which Mr. O'Connor had sworn allegiance “So help him, God!” a few months before. He is now *Fidus Achates* to the whole Gladstonian party, and it seems Book Concealer to the Finance Department of the Murder League.

IF it is true as stated by the London *Chronicle's* Rome correspondent that Mgr. Persico, in his report of his mission, declares that Ireland is not ripe for Home Rule, a most important point is gained. We have the testimony of a high authority of the Church to a fact which is matter of common observation, but which the Irish agitators and their deluded victims everywhere insist is otherwise. The Irish of course will say that Mgr. Persico has mistaken; but so they would say the Archangel Gabriel had mistaken if he came from Heaven and told them they were not fit for Home Rule. No doubt, as the Papal Envoy is reported to say further, there exists in Ireland a universal aspiration for progressive emancipation which the English Government would do well to reckon with; and the English Government will reckon with it so soon as Ireland is freed from the cruel tyranny of the conspirators who call themselves the National League.

THE dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church must have many searchings of heart about Ireland. Long ago the country passed virtually beyond the control of the priests—into that of the Jacobins; and worse reflection, the whirlwind was sown as much in Roman Catholic seminaries as any where else. Was sown; and is sown still, strange to say. Here is what the special correspondent of the Radical Manchester *Guardian* relates of a visit to the great convent school at Listowel. “We went into the big schoolroom, and there . . . we heard the girls read, and I must say that for justness of intonation and clearness of expression I have never heard such good reading in any English school. They read out of Gold-